

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 SCS-03 SCA-01

PM-04 EAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 /083 W

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O P 281153Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1339

INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

JCRC BARBERS PT

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 21273

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, VS, RP, UNHCR

SUBJ: AMERICANS IN VIET-NAM

REF: A) STATE 184924 B) GENEVA 5958.

1. AT EMBASSY'S URGING, UNHCR CONVENED MEETING OF U.S., PHILIPPINES, AND UNHCR OFFICIALS JULY 28 TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR SPECIAL SAIGON EVACUATION FLIGHTS. AS IT STANDS NOW, AUGUST 1 PLANE WILL MOST LIKELY CARRY ONLY AMERICANS AND DEPENDENTS. WITH U.S. ASSURANCES THAT WE WOULD IN PRINCIPLE TAKE THOSE ARRIVING ON AUGUST 1 FLIGHT APPARENTLY SATISFACTORY TO UNHCR, REPRESENTATIVE BERTA TOOK THE OCCASION TO BEAR DOWN HARD ON PHILIPPINES EMBOFFS ON NEED FOR GOP GUARANTEE THAT IT WILL TAKE ALL THOSE EVACUATED FROM SAIGON WHO ARE
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INCLUDED ON UNHCR LIST OF FILIPINOS. THEY REPLIED THAT

THIS WAS A QUESTION ON WHICH MANILA HAS NOT YET MADE DECISION AND ON WHICH THEY HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO FLEXIBILITY. BERTA SAID THAT IF HE COULD NOT RECEIVE SUCH ASSURANCES, THERE WOULD BE NO FLIGHT FOR FILIPINOS AND DEPENDENTS OR, AT MOST, THE EVACUATION OF ONLY FILIPINO CITIZENS. PHILIPPINES EMBOFFS ESTIMATED THAT APPROXIMATELY SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THEIR NATIONALS DEPARTING SAIGON WITH WIVES ACTUALLY HAVE WIVES AT HOME, AS WELL.

2. ARRANGEMENTS FOR RECEPTION OF PASSENGERS AUGUST 1 ARE SHAPING UP SATISFACTORILY. FLIGHT EXPECTED TO ARRIVE BANGKOK APPROXIMATELY 1400 LOCAL. UNHCR AND EMBASSY PERSONNEL WILL MAKE DRY RUN EXERCISE AT AIRPORT JULY 29. MEDIA COVERAGE WILL BE HEAVY,; BUT WE BELIEVE IT CAN BE HANDLED WELL WITH THOSE AMERICANS WHO AGREEABLE TO INTERVIEWS.

3. NEWSMEN ARE PRESSURING US CONSIDERABLY TO RELEASE NAMES OF AUGUST 1 PASSENGERS. NEW YORK TIMES, FOR INSTANCE, WISHES TO HAVE THEM IN TIME FOR SUNDAY EDITION. WE REALIZE THAT UNHCR GENEVA WANTS LIST CLOSELY HELD (REF A), BUT WE DO NOT KNOW REASONS. ONLY PROBLEM UNHCR BANGKOK CAN FORESEE IS POSSIBILITY OF DISAPPOINTMENT OF FAMILY OF SOMEONE WHOSE NAME IS ON LIST IN NEWSPAPER BUT DOES NOT ARRIVE. EMBASSY FAVORS RELEASING IT IN ADVANCE TO RESPONSIBLE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE DEFINITIVE GUIDANCE FROM DEPARTMENT AND US MISSION GENEVA SOONEST.

4. IN RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT'S KIND OFFER OF SUPPORT, EMBASSY HAS SUFFICIENT VEHICLES FOR TRANSPORTATION FROM AIRPORT BUT NO RPT NO FUNDS TO PROVIDE ROOM AND BOARD TO THOSE AMCITS AND DEPENDENTS WHO ARE INDIGENT AND WITHOUT FRIENDS IN BANGKOK. INDEED, WE SUSPECT THAT MAJORITY OF PASSENGERS WILL FALL INTO THAT CATEGORY AND ESTIMATE OUR NEED FOR SUBSISTENCE WILL BE APPROXIMATELY \$2500. CAN DEPARTMENT ASSIST US WITH FUNDS? EMBASSY HAS IN MIND YMCA AND FACILITIES OF SIMILAR LEVEL FOR LODGING FOR THOSE WITHOUT MONEY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CITIZEN PROTECTION, EMERGENCY EVACUATION, AIR TRANSPORTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO21273
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760291-1005
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760715/aaaaamtx.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 184924, 76 GENEVA 5958
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERICANS IN VIET-NAM
TAGS: CASC, PFOR, AEMR, VS, RP, US, UNHCR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006